

App. Ser. No.: 10/046,083
Atty. Doc. No.: D02402

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed on March 23, 2006, the Examiner rejected claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,038,551 to Barlow et al. and rejected claims 49-51 as being unpatentable over Barlow et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0070174 to Solomon.

In response, Applicant has amended claims 48 and 51, cancelled claims 49-50 and added new claims 52-53. No new matter has been added.

Claims 48 and 51-53 are patentable over Barlow et al. and Solomon as neither teaches or describes a security separable module that is coupled to a set-top box via a port on the set-top box wherein the security separable module includes a physical layer key and an activation key that is decrypted using the physical layer key and wherein the activation key is included into the security separable module after manufacture. For at least this reason, claims 48 and 51 are allowable.

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CONCLUSION

No fees are believed due for this response beyond those fees necessary for the Request for Continued Examination. However, the Office is authorized to charge any additional fees or underpayments of fees (including fees for petitions for extensions of time) under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 to account number 502117. Any overpayments should be credited to the same account.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application, withdrawal of the rejections made in the last Office Action and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. The Applicant's representative can be reached at the below telephone number if the Examiner has any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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